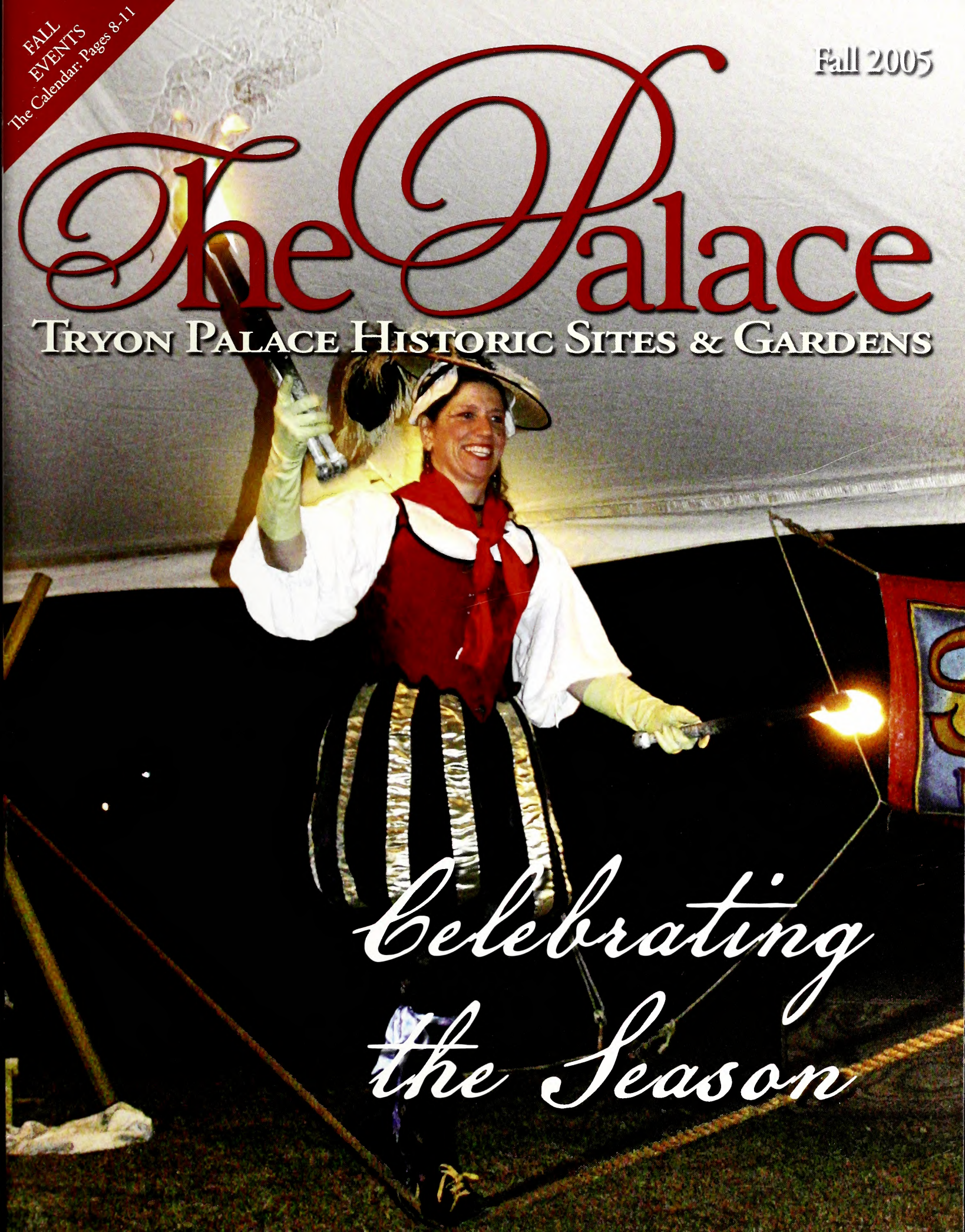


FALL
EVENTS
The Calendar: Pages 8-11

Fall 2005

The Palace

TRYON PALACE HISTORIC SITES & GARDENS

A woman in historical costume, including a white long-sleeved shirt, a red vest, a red neckerchief, and a black skirt with gold and white vertical stripes, is smiling and holding a flaming torch. She is wearing a wide-brimmed hat and yellow gloves. The background is dark, and there are other torches visible, suggesting a historical reenactment or festival.

*Celebrating
the Season*

New branch heads join TPHS&G staff

Museum Services

Nancy Gray joined the staff at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens as the new Head of Museum Services in March.

Nancy, who hit the ground running and now has several ongoing projects in addition to her duties as a branch head at Tryon Palace, says that she and her husband Ed are outdoors people and especially love boating. When Nancy made a career decision to move from cultural arts back to the museum field, she found that a position in New Bern would suit her on both personal and professional levels.

"We conducted our own survey of small waterfront communities that met our criteria: waterfront, walking village, welcoming, cultural amenities, university within 50 miles—New Bern was a BINGO," she says.

At Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, Nancy is applying her experience designing interactive exhibits and modernizing museums to working on several long-term projects. These include enrichment of our exhibits to make them more interactive, enhancement of our educational programming through a coordinated effort with schools, and expansion of our African-American programming to include new historic characters.

Nancy also hopes to secure funding to construct our first interactive exhibit, to develop a new orientation film, and to install a dynamic information system in the visitor center.

Over the course of her career, Nancy has served as executive director of the Very Special Arts of Virginia, an organization dedicated to bringing the arts to children, youth and adults with disabilities; the 1708 Gallery, a not-for-profit art gallery in Richmond; and the Virginia Museum of Transportation in Roanoke. For 12 years, Nancy also served as an exhibit design consultant for museums and visitor centers.

Nancy holds a bachelor's degree in history from Queens University in Charlotte and completed coursework on the graduate level in Museum Studies at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C.



Nancy Gray

Public Services

For Cheryl Arthur Kite, joining the staff of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens in July means coming home.

"Even when I lived outside of the area, Craven County has always been the center of my existence," she says. "Several of my ancestors came with the de Graffenried colony and my family has lived in the Askin area and throughout eastern North Carolina ever since. Even though I moved away, I always expected to come home."

Cheryl also remembers watching the Palace's reconstruction as she arrived for piano lessons taught by Sara Abernethy. (The Abernethy home is now known as the Disosway House and houses TPHS&G's library and the Museum Services branch.)



Cheryl Kite

The Palace

*The Magazine of the Tryon Palace
Council of Friends*

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 1 FALL 2005

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The Palace is published four times a year by the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Send correspondence to Vina Hutchinson Farmer, Editor, *The Palace*, PO Box 1007, New Bern, NC 28563. Telephone: 252-514-4936. Fax: 252-514-4876. E-mail: vfarm@tryonpalace.org. For more information about Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Garden, click on our website at www.tryonpalace.org or call 252-514-4900, 800-767-1560.

On the cover:

Signora Bella returns to TPHS&G for Candlelight Tours in December.

continued on page 7



Holiday Traditions

Celebrate two centuries of Christmas at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens

by Lisa Wimpfheimer,
Horticulturist

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens decks the halls and celebrates two centuries of Christmas with fireworks, distinctive decorations, music and more as daily holiday tours get underway on Dec. 1.



Each Candlelight Tour evening concludes with an impressive display of colorful fireworks.

Holiday Tours

Holiday tours take place 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 1-4 p.m. Sundays through Jan. 5.

The Palace and our other historic homes are dressed for this festive season starting with unique handmade wreaths and garlands. The Palace features glorious arrangements crafted from dried flowers, greenery and other treasures of nature. The John Wright Stanly and George W. Dixon Houses are festively decorated with fresh fruits, vegetables and evergreens.

Colonial character interpreters in the cozy Kitchen Office dish up Palace news and gossip as they prepare elaborate holiday meals for Governor Tryon, his family and guests. Meanwhile, at the Robert Hay House, occupying Union troops recall the traditions of their families far away.

Distinctive Christmas trees, each decorated in a unique and festive style, are the highlight of stops at the William Hollister House, the New Bern Academy Museum and the Visitor Center.

Candlelight Tours

Step back in time for an unforgettable evening in colonial New Bern and experience the magic of a Colonial Christmas by the glow of candles, cressets and fireworks as light remains a central theme of the evening Candlelight Tours, set for 5-9 p.m. Dec. 10 and 17.

Our Fife & Drum Corps leads off the celebration at 5 p.m. Inside the Palace buildings and around

the grounds, fascinating characters share the news of the day. The debates promise once again to be lively at our 18th-century coffeehouse, where cider, coffee and cookies are served. Jonkonnu, an eastern North Carolina African-American tradition, returns this year to perform its special blend of song and dance for the Dixon family. On the grounds, Signora Bella offers her special blend of holiday entertainment and

comedy to the evening's festivities. Each Candlelight Tour evening concludes with an impressive display of colorful fireworks over the South Lawn.

For other holiday events, see our Calendar on page 10. Events are open free to ticket holders and Council of Friends members. TPHS&G will close Dec. 24-26 and Jan. 1 for the holidays.

The Perfect Gift

It's not always easy finding the perfect gift, especially for that special someone who already has everything. Consider giving that person a Tryon Palace Council of Friends annual membership, which features such benefits as annual admission, shop discounts, The Palace magazine, invitations to "Friends only" events and free admission to lectures. Your gift membership also ensures that through Council of Friends support, Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens will be able to continue offering fantastic programs and experiences for our many visitors. Information about a Council of Friends gift membership is available by calling Karen O'Connell at 252-514-4933 or e-mailing koconnell@tryonpalace.org.

Two centuries of American Christmas history

by Sara K. Spalding and Vina H. Farmer

Our journey begins in the 18th century with the colonial Christmas celebrated by the Tryon and Stanly families, their servants and slaves. These families observed the traditional Twelve Days of Christmas, which lasted from December 25 to January 6 ("Twelfth Night" or Epiphany). Holiday festivities included feasting, dancing and card parties.

During the 1700s, decorations were very simple and generally included pine branches, boxwood sprigs, holly and an abundance of candles. Christmas trees, although popular in Germany, were not part of the colonial Christmas scene for most people.

The colonial holiday season also did not focus primarily on children and their enjoyment. While children may have received small gifts like coins, books and candy, they were considered too young to attend Christmas balls and parties with adults.

A typical celebration among the upper class would have been somewhat similar to the one held in December 1770 by Royal Governor William Tryon and his wife, Margaret. They hosted a "grand and noble entertainment and ball" to celebrate the Palace's opening along with King George III's birthday.

Many prominent people and politicians from throughout the area attended the festivities, which started off with a royal salute fired from the battery. "About eight in the evening the company were

entertained with a very grand and surprising exhibition of fireworks, which were played off in the back of the Palace," reported the January 1771 edition of the *Virginia Gazette*. Common folks were not forgotten either. Alan Watson,

author of *A History of New Bern and Craven County*, reports that for those who could not go inside, a bonfire was lit and a large feast, complete with liquor, was laid out on the Palace lawn for all to enjoy.

Antebellum Christmas Traditions

Some of our most timeless holiday traditions become popular in the early 19th century. Although some documentation exists to show that Hessian soldiers may have decorated trees during the American Revolution, Christmas trees made a slightly more public foray onto the world stage in 1800 when Queen Charlotte, wife of George III, had a Christmas tree set up at the Queen's Lodge at Windsor on Christmas Day. But the tradition really took off in the late 1830s, when the press widely reported that young Queen Victoria of England and her German consort, Prince Albert, included a tree in their Christmas festivities.

Christmas trees in the early to mid-19th century often sat on tabletops. Some were fir treetops, planted in a tub and surrounded

At Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, we embrace a journey through two centuries of American Christmas history. In December, our visitors experience holiday decorations, costumed interpreters, dramatic entertainment, and the sounds and smells of Christmas of the 18th and 19th centuries – a wonderfully enriching opportunity for all ages.

by moss at the base. Others were miniature orange trees or shaped boxwood. Small toys were clustered under the tree, and the trees were often decorated with wax candles, gilded eggshell cups, paper cornucopias, dolls, toys and sugarplums.

Christmas trees also made it to the American White House in 1835 during the Andrew Jackson administration. In 1835, Jackson's French chef made him a sugar-frosted pine tree, surrounded by toy animals made out of flavored ices. In New Bern in the 1830s, Dixon House owner and fashionable tailor George Dixon may have aspired to have a tree like this, but more traditional families, like Robert Hay's, might have still thought Christmas trees to be an outlandish German custom.

The fashion of decorating Christmas trees was introduced to Williamsburg, Virginia in 1842. Given its proximity to Williamsburg, New Bernians may have started using trees around the same time.

Christmas trees had become quite popular in most of the eastern states by the 1850s and, by the time of the Civil War, were a more entrenched tradition.

Wartime Christmases of the 1860s

The Christmas season in the years prior to the Civil War included

dancing, music, games and other festivities, according to Watson, promising a week or more of “fun, mirth and jollity.” Holidays included visits to family and friends, whose homes were typically decorated with evergreens. Sumptuous meals included “turkeys, hams, homemade pickles, mince pies, sweet potatoes, calf-foot jelly, syllabub, and ‘every delicacy the palate could crave,’” Watson writes, and dancing and attending church services remained highlights of the Christmas season. Even on the eve of the Civil War, New Bern’s younger citizens were “determined to have a merry time,” with weekly parties and musical “soirees” scheduled not just during the holiday season but throughout the year of 1860-1861.

“It was a time of marriages, dancing, midnight suppers, and slave hire. Santa Claus paid his customary visit, distributing cakes, candy, and sugar, plus, china toys and drums. Slaves also enjoy the occasion, observing at least a three or four day break from work. Presents came from masters and mistresses, and eating, drinking, and dancing lifted their spirits. On Christmas day, the bondsmen observed the custom of John Kooner, whereby they rose early, gaily clad themselves, created considerable noise, and sought the beneficence of their owners. Indeed, in certain years when Christmas passed with ‘unusual dullness’ in New Bern, the slaves provided the only merriment.” Recreation of this African American tradition is called Jonkonnu at TPHS&G.

However, New Bern’s occupation by Union troops in March 1862 at first put an end to the usual frivolity



TPHS&G recreates the African-American tradition of Jonkonnu.

and festivities. Many white families fled New Bern and, leaving nearly all that they owned behind, became refugees in other towns further west. Watson writes of Mrs. F. C. Roberts and her family:

“Mrs. F. C. Roberts remembered the emotional and financial tribulations of Christmas, especially toward the end of the war. Stockings had to be filled, gifts made ready, and children’s faith in Santa Claus fulfilled. Mrs. Roberts and her family persevered. Her husband, home from the army on sick leave, made a cradle, carriage, and cart for the two girls and a boy. Rag dolls ‘derived from the ransacking of trunks.’ ”

Mrs. Roberts’ children got into the spirit of the occasion by collecting “evergreens and berries from the woods to decorate the house” while Mrs. Roberts somehow pulled together enough wax to make 12 candles, using bottles as

candlesticks. The formal elegant dinner of years past was replaced by one of rice and peaches.

Meanwhile, in New Bern, Union troops far from home enjoyed the holidays as a break from the usual drilling. Watson writes that most “visited New Bern, though some played ball in camp or strolled around the countryside to visit deserted plantations.” Many enjoyed attending church services, followed by lavish banquets that included “poultry, vegetables, sauces, pies, puddings, cakes, roast beef and coffee ...” and featured toasts and speeches.

When the war ended in 1865, the Union occupation ended and New Bernians came back to their homes. While the holiday seasons of hardship, loss and distance were not forgotten, local citizens were able to recapture the feelings of excitement and anticipation present in the Christmases of earlier days.

In 1912, Mary Norcott Bryan wrote in her memoir, “Christmas, what a time of good cheer! the most delightful season of the whole year. Such getting married, midnight suppers and dances, visiting other plantations, and careless happy living, with not a thought for the future.”

Today, we live in a world of complications and commercialism. Take some time this holiday season to enjoy a trip to the simpler pleasures of Christmas Past at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.

Sources:

Bryan, Mary Norcott. A Grandmother’s Recollections of Dixie (1912).

Virginia Gazette. January 10, 1771.

Watson, Alan. A History of New Bern and Craven County (1987).



Palace's silver collection adds two new names

by Nancy Richards, Curator of Collections

Since its inception, Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens has collected North Carolina silver. To date we have examples from 14 North Carolina silversmiths and silver-making firms, with representative examples from Raleigh, Fayetteville, Wilmington, Washington and New Bern. This year we have acquired flatware produced by two previously un-represented North Carolina silversmiths.

One new name is John Gill (1798-ca. 1843) whose stamp appears on a shoulder-less serving spoon with a pointed oval bowl and a broad fiddle handle slightly downturned at the end. Stamped "GILL NC" in a rectangle serrated on the inner edge, the spoon has the engraved initials "SSC" on the handle.

Born in New Bern, John Gill was 16 when he was apprenticed to David A. Murdock, formerly an apprentice of Freeman Woods. Five years later, in 1819, he took over Murdock's shop. In 1821, William Tisdale II of Washington and Fayetteville announced that he had taken over Gill's shop. Gill's residence during the period 1821-1830 is unclear although he did accept New Bernian Carney Cahoon as an apprentice in 1828.

Gill's career can only be described as unusual. In addition to gold- and silversmithing, he is reported to have invented the revolver in 1829 (six years before Samuel Colt patented his model). In 1830, he advertised his return to New Bern



This serving spoon was crafted by John Gill (1798-ca. 1843).

and opened his former shop on Broad Street, where in addition to goldsmithing and silversmithing, he offered to convert common guns to percussion guns. His last advertisement appeared in the *New Bern Spectator*, March 22, 1839, seeking "apprentices to the Silver, Copper and White-Smith [tinsmith] business." In 1843, he left in trust for his sons his tools and mechanical books, deeded land and a tenement in trust for his daughters, and disappeared from public record.

From the rate of survival, it would seem that most North Carolina silversmiths specialized in making spoons, which are the most commonly found flatware in 18th and early 19th-century inventories. So it was especially exciting to receive a gift of six matching silver four-tine forks with sugar loaf shoulders and fiddle-shaped handles. Each fork is engraved with the initials "BLWC" on the handle. Five forks are stamped

"T.W.BROWN" in a rectangle, the mark of Thomas William Brown (1803-1872) of Wilmington, as well as a diamond-shaped stamp with the date 1851. The sixth has the mark "BROWN&ANDERSON," the same diamond-shaped date stamp for 1851 as well as a merchant's mark "G & H" for William Gale and Nathaniel Hayden. The partnership of Thomas William Brown and William S. Anderson (1820-1872) began about 1850 and lasted until Anderson's death in 1872. It is thought that Anderson may have been trained by Brown since no individual mark used by Anderson has been found.

Brown (1803-1872) was born in New York City, and his parents were natives of Bladen County, N.C. While he learned his trade in New York City, in 1823 he opened a shop in Wilmington, where he lived for the rest of his life.

The forks are a gift of Jane Brinkley Sugg and will be used in the Dixon House Dining Room.



Fall is the best time to plant, move trees and shrubs

by Lisa Wimpfheimer, Horticulturist

Q: When is the best time to plant or move trees & shrubs?

A: Fall is the best time to plant or move evergreens, fruit trees and shade trees. They are now becoming dormant and, once planted, will immediately form new roots. By spring, they will have well-established root systems ready to put on a full year's growth.

Current research shows that backfilling the planting hole with the same material that you dug out of it is preferred. Get your soil tested this time of year, so you know your soil pH and soil nutrient levels. Contact your local Cooperative Extension office for a soil test kit.

If you haven't decided what to plant, come to our Fall Heritage Plant Sale on Friday & Saturday, Oct. 7 and 8, and support the Tryon Palace gardens.

Q: What plants provide good fall color?

A: Select plants for colorful fall foliage, such as Fothergilla, Iteas and Viburnum. American beautyberry gives you fuschia berries plus colorful leaves. For shade, try Fruitless Sweet Gum, Red Maple and Oak trees. Hardy annual plants such as chrysanthemums,

ornamental kales, flowering cabbages and dusty miller are available. But don't be afraid to mix in some tender annuals like marigolds, because they bloom in the classic fall colors of orange, yellow and gold.

Don't forget to plan now for spring color. Order enough bulbs so you can plant your daffodils, narcissus and tulips in groupings for the greatest effect.



Confederate rose.

Q: Can you suggest a unique, low-maintenance plant for the garden?

A: A wonderful, old garden plant is the multi-color blooming Confederate Rose or Cotton Rose, *Hibiscus mutabilis*. This large clumping perennial has broad leaves, and in early fall it has a display of flowers that start out white and then turn from pink to rose in color. As with many of our native hibiscus species, it does well in

moist areas. You can enjoy their beauty in the Latham Garden, and, of course, we will have some at our fall plant sale.

Lisa Wimpfheimer, horticulturist and head of the Garden Services Branch at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, has been a plant pest consultant and directs the planting and care of the site's 14 acres.

New branch heads

continued from page 2

She brings 18 years of experience to her new position as Development Officer and head of the Public Services Branch. That experience includes raising support for East Carolina University's Division of Student Life, Florida State University's School of Theatre, and Northwestern University's Schools of Music & Theatre and the office of Planned and Major Gifts.

"I experienced the rebuilding of the Palace as a child, acquired experience in institutional fund raising, and have kept New Bern's 300th anniversary in my mind for some time," she says. "As I prepared to return home, I didn't know of anything I'd rather be doing than promoting Tryon Palace and working toward the 300th

anniversary and the North Carolina History Education Center."

Since coming on board, Cheryl has been busy "reviewing the remarkable foundation that has been established by the Tryon Palace Commission and the Tryon Palace Council of Friends for its advancement program and developing a plan to take all fund-raising activities to the next level. We can now use this framework to continue building support for current operations and to expand our efforts for the Making History capital campaign."

Cheryl holds bachelor's degrees in music and business administration from East Carolina University and pursued master's studies at Northwestern University. She also attended Dartmouth College's Council for Advancement and Support of Education Summer Institute.

October

Throughout the month of October, the gardens will be open until 6 p.m.

Friday, October 7- Sunday, October 9

MUMfest weekend

Gardens open for free 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday.

The Palace gardens are open free to visitors to enjoy the beauty of thousands of chrysanthemums.

Home tours are available at regular admission prices. Other events scheduled include the Fall Heritage Plant Sale, a colonial Fife & Drum Corps, a Civil War military encampment and a Punch & Judy puppet show.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday

The Fall Heritage Plant Sale offers visitors the opportunity to purchase unique, rare and historic plants for display in their home gardens.

Gardeners will be on hand to answer your planting questions. Come early for the best selection.

11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Saturday

Watch a real colonial puppet show, once performed in Governor Tryon's time. Punch & Judy present Mr. Punch Meets Governor Tryon, which has been adapted for young audiences and brings Punch & Judy to America just before the American Revolution. The puppet show will take place in the Stable Office carriage bay.

2 p.m. Sunday

Come see our new Fife & Drum Corps make its public debut!



Sunday, October 16

African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour

2 p.m. Meet in the Visitor Center.

\$4 adults, \$2 students; free for

Tryon Palace ticket holders and

members of the Tryon Palace

Council of Friends. Reservations required; call 252-514-4900.

Learn about 300 years of African American history on a walking tour of New Bern's historic district. This tour lasts approximately 90 minutes and covers 16 blocks.

Thursday, October 20 through Saturday, October 22

New Bern at Night: Ghostwalk

New Bern remembers its 1950s era in this event sponsored by the New Bern Historical Society. Tickets are available by calling 252-638-8558. Ghostwalk ticket holders get a \$3 discount off regular admission

to Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. The site's William Hollister House, located at the corner of Broad and George streets, and the New Bern Academy Museum are included on the Ghostwalk tour this year.

Sunday, October 23

Lecture: Three Years at the Royal School of Needlework

2 p.m. Visitor Center Auditorium.

\$4; free for Tryon Palace ticket

holders and members of the Tryon

Palace Council of Friends.

Needlework expert and Royal School of Needlework graduate Marion Scouler presents information and shows examples of embroidery, artwork and dressmaking done at the Royal School from 1952-1955, when the Tryon Palace Restoration was being undertaken. She also talks about the creation of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation robe. The Royal School of Needlework is recognized as the finest for technique in the world. This lecture should be entertaining

and informative and will be followed by a tour of embroidered pieces in the Tryon Palace collection.

November

Winter Hours: From November 1 through February 28, gardens open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Thursday, November 17

African American Lecture: Free Black Slaveholders in North Carolina

7 p.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. Free.

Dr. Darin Waters speaks about slaveholding among free blacks in the United States in general and North Carolina in particular, with highlights of the controversial issues related to this little-known facet of American history. This lecture is part of an ongoing lecture series sponsored by Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.

Sunday, November 20

African American Historic Downtown Walking Tour

2 p.m. Meet in the Visitor Center. \$4 adults, \$2 students; free for Tryon Palace ticket holders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends. Reservations required; call 252-514-4900.

Learn about 300 years of African American history on a walking tour of New Bern's historic district. This tour lasts approximately 90 minutes and covers 16 blocks. This is the last walking tour scheduled for 2005.

Friday, November 25 & Saturday, November 26

Harvest Celebrations

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Free for Tryon Palace ticket holders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends.

Join us for Harvest Celebrations at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens with all the bounty that history has to offer. Learn about harvest activities from the early period of colonial settlement to the 19th century. Activities include meeting the Governor's cook, watching meal preparation in the Palace Kitchen and the Hay House, making candles and cornhusk dolls, basketry demonstrations and enjoying free cider and cookies. Step into the past by experiencing camp life with living history re-enactors on the grounds. The Punch & Judy puppet show is set for 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Stable Office carriage bay both days.

Saturday, November 26

Saturday Sampler: Victorian Christmas Ornament Workshop

10 a.m. Meet at the Visitor Center. \$12; workshop is limited to 12 participants. Pre-payment and reservations required; call 252-514-4935 for reservations.



Make and take home unique 1880s Christmas ornaments popular in American homes during the Victorian era. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and children to share a historical activity and prepare for the holiday season

December

Thursday, December 1 through January 5

Holiday Celebration 2005

Daily, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sundays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Fee charged.

All decked out in holiday finery, Tryon

Palace Historic Sites & Gardens welcomes visitors to two centuries of American Christmas traditions. See our feature on page 3 for more information.

Saturday, December 3

A Civil War Christmas at Tryon Palace

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. South Lawn. Free for Tryon Palace ticket holders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends.

Join Union and Confederate soldiers encamped on the Palace grounds as they celebrate the wartime Christmases of the 1860s. Activities include camp cooking, military drill, musket demonstrations, Victorian handcrafts, period music and displays by living history re-enactors.



Saturday, December 3

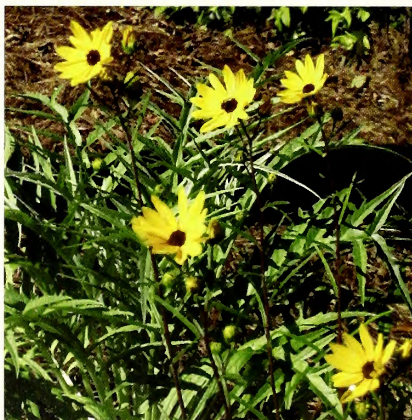
Dramatic Presentation: The Lion, The Eagle and Dixie (or Yankeeedom to Secession)

2 p.m. Visitor Center Auditorium. \$4; free for Tryon Palace ticket holders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends.

Meet 1860s character Frank Vizetelly, an artist-correspondent for the Illustrated London News during the

American Civil War. Vizetelly delivers an exciting first-person account of events during the War Between the States from the British perspective. This presentation, written and performed by character actor Howard Burnham, is part of the December 3 Confederate Christmas 1861 event at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.

ball" to celebrate the completion of the Palace and the birthday of King George III. The palace is illuminated and filled with elegant dancers and fascinating characters. New Bern's colonial townspeople have also turned out to enjoy the festivities. The grand finale of the evening is a spectacular fireworks show on the South Lawn. Come celebrate the holidays with us ... colonial style.



Saturday, December 10 and 17

Candlelight Tours: A Colonial Christmas Celebration

5 p.m. to 9 p.m. \$15 adults, \$6 students; free for Tryon Palace ticketholders and members of the Tryon Palace Council of Friends.

Step back in time for an unforgettable evening in colonial New Bern in 1770. Governor and Mrs. Tryon are hosting a "Grand entertainment and

Saturday, December 24 through Monday, December 26, and Sunday, January 1, 2006

Season's Greetings!

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is closed on these days in celebration of the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Coming in 2006

January

- Ticket holders can see Punch and Judy performances Jan. 7, 14 and 28 in the Visitor Center Auditorium. Admission to this colonial puppet show is free for ticket holders and Council of Friends members.

- Ben Ruffin discusses *Civil Rights in North Carolina & Black Economic Development* in a free lecture 7 p.m. Jan. 19 in the Tryon Palace Auditorium.

- January's Saturday Sampler features a performance of *Box and Cox: A 19th Century Comedy* 10 a.m. Jan. 21 in the Visitor Center Auditorium. This performance is free for ticket holders and Council of Friends members.

February

- Punch and Judy return for Feb. 11, 18 and 25 performances in the Visitor Center Auditorium. Admission to this colonial puppet show is free for ticket holders and Council of Friends members.

- The free monthly African-American lecture is set for 7 p.m. Feb. 16 in the Visitor Center Auditorium. Details to be announced.

- The next Saturday Sampler program, *Mysteries of History: Old Photo Forum*, takes place 10 a.m. Feb. 18 at the Hollister House. Admission to the Sampler is \$4; free for ticket holders and Council of Friends members.

March

- Girl Scouts of all ages can enjoy a fun-filled day of history featuring tours of the Palace and other historic homes, take-home projects, Colonial games and hands-on activities during March 4's Scouting Out Tryon Palace event. To register, call the Coastal Carolina Girl Scout Council at 800-558-9297, ext. 118, by Feb. 12.

- Dr. Bradford J. Wood, Ph.D., focuses on *The Origins of Slave Society in Tidewater North Carolina* 7 p.m. March 16 in the Tryon Palace Auditorium. Admission to the monthly African-American Lecture is free.

- The African-American Historic Downtown Walking Tours return for 2006 on March 19. Pre-registration is required. Those participating meet at 2 p.m. in the Visitor Center. The cost is \$4 for adults, \$2 for students, and free for ticket holders and Council of Friends members.

- The 38th Annual Tryon Palace Decorative Arts Symposium, *Drawing Room Tales and Parlor Entertainments*, is set for March 19-21. Sponsored by Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens and the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, the symposium has a brochure available online at www.symposium.com. For more information, call Kerry Hinshaw at 336-334-4726.

Tryon Palace Fife & Drum Corps debuts on grounds during MUMfest

by Bill Hand, Living History Programs Coordinator

Listen closely: that cheerful, piercing whistling tune and the rousing staccato beat, bearers of martial hope and glory — the flutter and snap of a flag in the breeze, the steady, confident steps of musicians on the march.

What you hear is nothing other than the Tryon Palace Fife & Drum Corps, ready to march onto the scene.

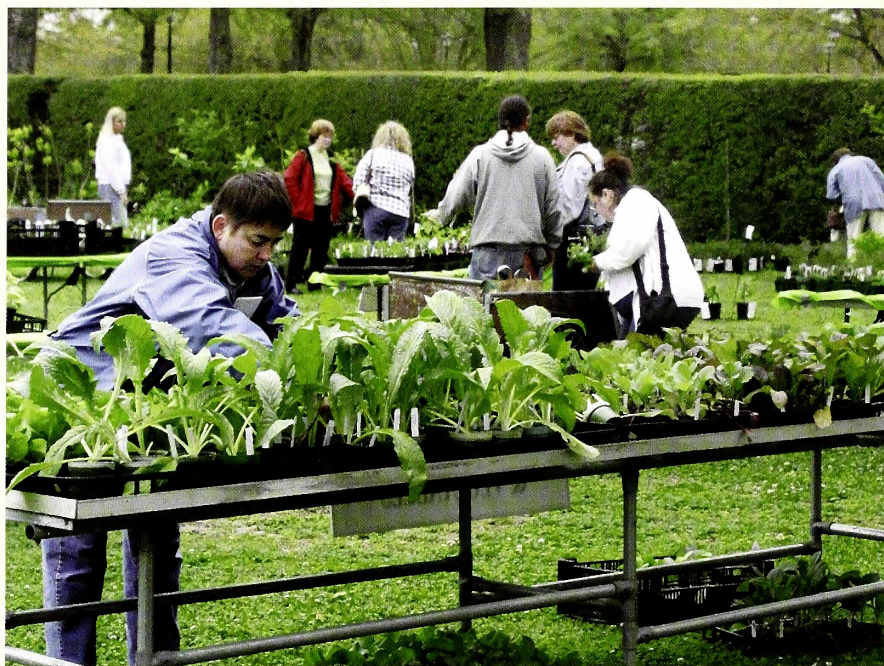
For the past couple of years, Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens has been piecing together plans for its own unit of fifers and drummers to dress up the grounds and highlight special events. Finally, through various grants and gifts from the Council of Friends and others and under the direction of Dr. Robert Bianco, the unit has come into its own.

Bianco is quick to point out that the Fife & Drum Corps is a team effort: Matt Andrade, band director for the Goldsboro High School marching band, teaches percussion, while Anna Nehring, director of the Tucker Creek Middle School band, leads the fifers. Students so far have been recruited from Craven and Carteret County schools.

The corps, which started with a band camp held on the Palace grounds in July, works with music of the time period that Governor William Tryon resided in New Bern. Among their period-authentic instruments are six regimental drums, two bass drums, three rosewood performing fifes and a number of practice fifes provided by TPHS&G.

The fifers and drummers look forward to their first public performance, Bianco said, set for Sunday, Oct. 9 at 2 p.m. on the Palace steps. The corps is also scheduled to open the Candlelight Tours at the front gate in December.

Regular practices and performances after December will be announced in the future.



Friends are invited to the special plant preview sale, 5-6:30 p.m. Oct. 6, of the second annual fall plant sale.

Special "Friends Only" Events

Council of Friends members are invited to the second annual Fall Plant Preview sale. Since "Fall is for Planting," come take advantage of this special preview sale from 5-6:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 6. Featured at the sale will be heirloom plants, native species, perennials, herbs, annuals, trees and shrubs. Proceeds from the fall plant sale benefit the gardens branch at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, so when you buy to beautify your home garden, you also support beautiful gardens at Tryon Palace.

(If you have any garden pots that can be recycled, please bring them. The greenhouse manager will be most appreciative.)

In November, Council of Friends members will be receiving their

invitations to an exceptional Friends event. Be sure to mark your calendars for the annual Holiday Open House, 5-8 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 7 at the Tryon Palace Commission House. Members who have attended in the past say this is a party not to be missed! Please join us for good food and good cheer and celebrate the holiday season with your Friends.

As an added benefit for this holiday season, Tryon Palace Shops will offer Council of Friends members an additional 10 percent discount in the Museum and Garden shops from Nov. 25 through Dec 11. Please consider some of the beautiful seasonal items for your Christmas giving.

Our New Friends

The Tryon Palace Council of Friends welcomes the following members who have joined since May 23, 2005.

STUDENT

A. J. Adolph, New Bern

ASSOCIATE

Dr. Michael S. Alexander, Valdese
Mrs. Kyle B. Arrowood, New Bern
Ms. Heidi Artley, Aurora
Mr. William L. Benners, Jr.,
New Bern

Mr. Michael Burke, Kinston
Mrs. Susan Z. Day,
Charleston, S.C.

Mr. David A. French, New Bern
Ms. Janet V. Johnson, New Bern
Mrs. Charlotte Y. Longo,
New Bern

Mr. Raymond Maxwell, Jr.,
Charlotte
Ms. C. Charlotte Smith,
Greenville

SUPPORTER

Mr. A. Charles Ellis, Greenville
Mr. and Mrs. Dale V. Gear,
New Bern
Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Little,
New Bern
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Martin,
Greenville
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McIndoe,
New Bern
Senator and Mrs. Fred J. Smith, Jr.,
Clayton
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Spaziante,
New Bern

FAMILY/GRANDPARENT

Lt. Col. and Mrs. Anthony Johnson,
Camp Lejeune
Mr. and Mrs. Sam C. Bidwell,
New Bern

SPONSOR

Mrs. Suzanne S. Bizzell, Kinston

Welcome to our new board members

The Tryon Palace Council of Friends is pleased to introduce the following persons who have agreed to serve on the Board of Directors.

Anne Bradford, a native of Burlington, N.C., graduated from Randolph-Macon Woman's College before going to Boston, Mass., where she did research for seven years working with an endocrinologist in a chronic disease hospital. She co-authored a dozen scientific publications before moving to Durham in 1965 with her husband and infant son. Over the past 40 years, Anne has served on a number of community boards including chairman of the Board of Trustees, Providence Memorial Association, Graham, N.C.; president of the Durham Council of Garden Clubs; and president of the Board of Directors of the Volunteer Center of Greater Durham. She is currently on the Board of Governors of the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo as well as a co-chair of the Board of Visitors for Camps Sea Gull and Seafarer in Arapahoe. Since 1980, Anne has worked for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at Duke University reviewing applications. Anne is married to Dr. William D. Bradford, a professor of pathology at Duke University School of Medicine. They have a son and a daughter and two grandsons.

New Bern native **Cece Scott** worked at Tryon Palace on Sunday afternoons during her senior year at New Bern High School. She then graduated from St. Mary's, attended North Carolina State University and graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a degree in history. Cece has lived and worked in Wilmington,

Charlotte, Alexandria, Va. and Washington, D.C. and has lived in Raleigh for the past 10 years. She is married to Peter Scott, also from New Bern, and has two stepchildren and a grandson. Cece is the immediate past president of the Raleigh Little Theatre and currently serves on its Board of Directors as well as the Board of Directors of the NC Museum of History Associates. She is the treasurer of the Raleigh Fine Arts Society and a member of the Wake County Master Gardeners.

Patricia L. Naumann spent over 18 years in the private sector prior to her relocation to New Bern in 1998. Most recently she was manager of purchasing and production control for Zebco, a leading manufacturer of fishing tackle. Prior to that she spent over 14 years with the Inland Steel Company, where she moved through a number of increasing managerial assignments in customer service, marketing, sales and operations planning. Patricia has a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history from Northwestern University and is the past president of the Craven Arts Council and Gallery and continues as a director on its board of directors. She also serves on the boards of Swiss Bear and the Craven Regional Medical Center Foundation and has been active in fund raising for the "Relay for Life", the signature event of the American Cancer Society. Patricia, a graduate of Leadership Craven, is married to William Naumann.

Jennifer Stallings began her journey east after growing up in Hickory, N.C. She began her college career at St. Mary's in Raleigh, where she received an Associate of Arts degree in 1990. After

graduating from Saint Mary's, Jennifer attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology. In 1994, Jennifer married Robert L. Stallings IV, and his work brought them back to New Bern. Jennifer and Robbie have two small children who attend Arendell Parrott Academy where Jennifer serves on the Mother's Committee. Jennifer's hobbies include tennis, running and interior design.

Robert Zaytoun was born in New Bern to parents Joseph and Thelma Zaytoun. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1971, followed by his law degree in 1975, from the University of North Carolina. Robert was admitted to the North Carolina bar in 1975 and the Florida bar in 1977. He currently practices before the U.S. District Court, Eastern and Middle Districts of North Carolina; the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit; and the U.S. Supreme Court. Robert has served as Wake County Assistant District Attorney, as a mentor in the UNC School of Law Mentorship Program, and as a certified mediator in all courts. Robert is also a member of the North Carolina Litigation Council, American Bar Association, North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers, North Carolina College of Advocacy, National Institute for Trial Advocacy, Association of Trial Lawyers of America and American Board of Trial Advocates. Robert and his wife Lucetta have six children and live in Raleigh.

Ginny Smith is the past president of Johnston County Arts Council and continues to serve on its board as second vice president. She and her husband, Senator Fred Smith,

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Holidays provide plenty of volunteer opportunities

by Fran Campbell, Volunteer Coordinator

The bounty and joy of the season brings families and friends together for good food and fun times. Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens is planning lots of new and exciting programs and events to make history fun for each and every visitor. Join our volunteer family and help us make this holiday wish a reality.

Garden Calendar: Gardening at TPHS&G is an adventure of service and sharing of information by staff and volunteer gardeners. We need to increase the number of volunteers in our garden program to ensure our gardens continue to look fantastic every season. Review the garden calendar and come help!

- Week of Oct. 3 – Assist Tim Minch, greenhouse manager, in preparing for plant sale: Labeling plants, moving plants to sale area and assisting with the sale Thursday, Oct. 6 through Sunday, Oct. 9.
- Weeks of Oct. 24 & Oct. 31 – Pull up mums and plant tulip bulbs and pansies.
- Monday, Nov. 21 and Tuesday, Nov. 22 – Assist with holiday decorating by picking boxwood and making wreaths.
- Sunday, Nov. 27 through Tuesday, Nov. 29 – Volunteers work with holiday decorators Debra Guthrie and Johnny Wheeler, plus the gardening staff, to decorate all the wreaths and festive garlands.

Gift Shop Volunteers: Twelve volunteer associates are needed to fully staff the Museum & Garden Shops during our busy season of school tours and holidays. Training will be provided in mid-October. An orientation to both shops will be given for volunteers who just want to work the “back room.” The shops are open daily. Volunteers may select days and hours but are expected to work monthly and possibly one weekend day.

MUMFest: Admission counters are needed to greet and count visitors at the Main and Eden Street gates during “free grounds” MUMfest Weekend, Oct. 7-9. Shifts include 9-11:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 2:30-5:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 2-5:30 p.m. Sunday.



Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens always needs volunteers for our gardening program to ensure our gardens look fantastic every season. Nick Farmer (shown here) helps wash out pots in the greenhouse.

Ghostwalk: Volunteers are needed to staff Ghostwalk sites at TPHS&G. Crowd counters and monitors are needed at the New Bern Academy Museum and the Hollister House. Shifts include 5-7 p.m. and 7-9:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 21 and 22.

Costume Seamstress: A major goal at TPHS&G for 2005 and 2006 is to place numerous costumed character interpreters on site daily. To meet this goal, costumes are needed. If you can use a sewing machine and follow dress patterns, let us hear from you soon! Materials are furnished.

Home School Day: On Saturday, Oct. 15, craft aides are needed

to assist students with appropriate period crafts and to provide information about historical tools and techniques.

Character Actors/Actresses: Try your hand at first or third person character interpretation! The holiday season offers many opportunities to “wanna-be” actors and actresses.

New Bern Academy “A” Team: Join the “A” Team at the New Bern Academy Museum. A new year will soon be dawning, and Academy volunteers have many ideas and activities planned to make the history of New Bern come to life with Academy students and faculty offering memories of days past. To accomplish this goal, new volunteers are a must. Guides are trained to answer questions and make referrals, but the facility tour is designed to be self-guided. The New Bern Academy is currently open 1-4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and for special tours in the morning. Guides are requested to volunteer two afternoons a month.

A special call to our African American community: Step forward and volunteer to help TPHS&G educate visitors about the extensive African-American community in New Bern during the 1700s until the mid-1800s. Be a character interpreter and help us share knowledge of this important part of American history.

To volunteer or for more information, call Volunteer Coordinator Fran Campbell at 252-514-4951 or email fcampbell@tryonpalace.org.

Foscue Plantation site of summer dig

Students at Park University, East Carolina University and Craven Community College got a hands-on opportunity to study archaeology this summer. Classroom studies were combined with trips to Foscue Plantation in Jones County, where students attempted to locate the foundations of the original home and outbuildings. (The current home was built in the early 1820s and is privately owned).

Students uncovered mostly fragments of brick, pottery and metal. But they also found such interesting items as an old metal shovel and what might possibly be carriage parts and a dog's jawbone.

The summer course was coordinated locally through Craven Community College by Caroline Whitehead, Division Director of Social Sciences. Alicia Kramer Durham served as instructor and ECU graduate student Laura Seifert led the field school. Laura also organized and analyzed the artifacts, and will write a report on the



Craven Community College student Leigh Stephens is among the students taking part in the summer field school at Foscue Plantation.

findings.

The summer field school was offered by the schools in conjunction with Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens. The Tryon Palace Council of Friends secured a \$2,000 grant from the Marion Stedman Covington Foundation to cover TPHS&G's share of the expenses.

TPHS&G named 'Best Historic Site;' Candlelight tours selected for Top 20

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens recently was presented several recognition awards. First, readers of Raleigh's *METRO Magazine* chose TPHS&G as "Best Historic Site," followed by Asheville's Biltmore House. The *METRO* Bravo Awards cover a broad range of categories with readers voting for their favorite in each category. Then we learned that the Southeast Tourism Society selected our Christmas Candlelight Tour as one of the "Top 20 Events in the Southeast" for December. Since only 20 events are chosen out of all the wonderful holiday events in the Southeast, this is quite an honor. Last but not least, the readers of the local newspaper, the *Sun Journal*, selected TPHS&G as "Best Historic Site."

New board members

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are the founders of the Johnston County Artists-in-the-Schools program that funds and provides arts education opportunities to every school in Johnston County. In 2005, *The Herald* newspaper recognized Ginny as one of the 10 women community leaders in Johnston County. In 2004, she received the H. Glen Williams Power of One Award from NC Communities in Schools for the difference she has made in the lives of children. Ginny taught in North Carolina public schools for 22 years, part of which time she taught North Carolina history. She lives in

Clayton and is the proud mother of five and grandmother of six. Ginny also enjoys singing and music and continues to sing in various pageants and events.

Alice Cramer Tolson has been married to New Bern native Hubert (Hubie) G. Tolson III since 1983, and they have two children—Scott, 15, and Caroline, 12. Alice grew up in Charlotte and Winston Salem and graduated from East Carolina University with a Bachelor of Science degree in allied health. Hubie and Alice moved to New Bern in 1983 and have lived in the historic district since 1985. Alice enjoys volunteering in the community and is currently serving

on the Board of the Hospital Foundation and the Board of Trustees of Arendell Parrott Academy. She is the past president of the Mothers' Committee of Arendell Parrott Academy. Her hobbies include tennis and gardening.

Charlotte Maxwell Weaver is a resident of Goldsboro. She has served on the boards of the Salvation Army, the Wayne Country Day School, the Goldsboro Country Club, the American Cancer Society and Prevent Blindness. Charlotte is married to Nick Weaver and has two boys and two dogs. Her hobbies include exercise and reading.

NEW INTHE SHOPS

The Bounty of the Seasons

Fall has arrived in style at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens' two gift shops. Celebrate the harvest season with festive gourds and foliage decorations that fit many styles. The Crafts and Garden Shop features many new products and tastes – make your visit complete with a handmade basket of Tryon Palace food products, linens and plants. The Museum Shop is elegantly dressed to impress with a selection of seasonal linens, serving pieces, candleholders and ceramic that complement many tables and price ranges.

Make your joyous Christmas complete with a stop at our Museum Shop. This cider decanter dresses up any occasion, while the Christmas Memories book captures those special moments for future generations. Celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas with decorative plates and napkins, sure to make any celebration a distinctive one. Proceeds from the shops support TPHS&G, and Council of Friends members receive special bonus shopping discounts this December. Complimentary gift wrapping is available.

Too “koi” for words – think beyond the traditional blue and white and get inspired by our new Chinese textile graphic porcelain pieces. Remember, building an outstanding collection starts with just one great piece.




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